

Special Call for Graduate/Postdoctoral Research Awards (2020): Psychological Research related to Identity, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Thriving

P&N has received generous support from the Charles Lafitte Foundation to support innovative research that engages P&N faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The P&N Task Force on Diversity, Inclusion, and Climate is assisting with redirecting funds previously designated for (now-prohibited) travel to support small research projects related to identity, diversity, inclusion, equity, and thriving (in the range of \$2000 to \$5000 apiece).

The task force will be supplementing two of the grants with an additional \$500 Stella Powell-Williams Award from internal sources of support. Those additional funds may be used flexibly within the scope of the overall project (and should not be included in the budget proposal). The task force created these additional funds in honor of Stella Powell-Williams, a Durham native, who has been a Grants and Contracts Administrator in our department for 13 years and a Duke employee for over 30 years. We couldn't do most of the work that we do without grant funding, yet the administrative support we receive to obtain and manage grants is too often underrecognized. Stella has been a force of nature in our department and we are honored by her critical contributions to the success of many of our research programs.



This Special Call for Graduate/Postdoctoral Research Awards is broad and inclusive. Recent events are shining new light on long-known costs of modern structural racism and discrimination while also highlighting the benefits and excellence of diversity and inclusion for human thriving. There are a range of research topics that would fit within the scope of this call that could include but are not limited to research on identity, diversity, culture, stereotypes, SES, disparities, structural racism in academia, resilience, environmental justice, effects of identity and diversity on decision making, optimizing inclusion in the classroom or among teams, development in minority populations, interpersonal relationships, cultural socialization, mental and physical health of marginalized individuals, interventions related to diversity, inclusion, equity, and thriving, among many other psychological topics. For those studying biological mechanisms (e.g. in animal models), proposals that frame or address issues that are disproportionately experienced by communities of color (e.g. stressors, toxins, nutrition or housing resources) would also be appropriate and will be considered. Ideal proposals would focus on publishable research questions that also have implications for improving our own local Duke University and Durham community and universities and their surrounding communities in general. We seek to support P&N graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who wish to do innovative research on these critically important topics.

Support for Research Projects

We anticipate funding both small research grants (up to \$2000 apiece) and large research grants (up to \$5000 apiece), with the number of awards depending on the amounts requested. We will be adopting the following guidelines for grant applications:

- Projects can be led by a single student / fellow or by a team, but at least one of the students/fellows needs to have a primary appointment in P&N (see eligibility criteria below).
- Grants can be used for most types of expenses associated with online research. For example, funds can be requested for expenses associated with running research subjects, for software or

for research materials, etc. However, personal laptops will not be supported. Any grant rebudgets will require prior approval.

- Grants cannot be used to support graduate/postdoctoral stipends or summer funding. They also cannot be used to support travel.
- Projects that have a role for undergraduates (e.g., creating stimulus materials, programming) will be given priority, although we realize this is a challenge in the current climate. Applications should include a brief statement describing either virtual undergraduate participation (and if so, a description of the plan for communicating with your undergraduates) or a role for undergraduates once they are (presumably) back on campus for the Fall 2020 semester.
- Funded grants may start any time after the notice of award and will last until June 30th, 2021. Grants are not renewable. Only expenses during the period of award may be charged to the grant.
- Multiple applications per student (as PI of the award) are discouraged.

Submission Information

Applications should be submitted by **July 6th 2020**, for full consideration. A completed application should be emailed to pn-grad-grants@duke.edu as a single PDF file that includes:

- **Project Description** (up to 2 pages). The project description should be scholarly but also broadly accessible to other psychological/neuroscience researchers. It should include a project title and a lay-language abstract that would be appropriate for publication on the departmental website (<100 words). The remainder of the project description can be organized/formatted however you see fit (i.e., single spacing is fine). Include a plan for engagement of undergraduates, if appropriate. References do not count in the page limit.
- **Narrative Budget** (up to 1 page). Provide an annotated summary of how funds will be allocated. Request the funds you need, up to \$2000 (small award) or \$5000 (large amount).
- **Approval of the Mentor**. Include a page with the mentor's signature or a copy of an email indicating the mentor's approval. You do not need to include a formal letter of support or anything extensive.

A. Eligibility

- All graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with primary appointment in P&N can apply for these grants. Postdoctoral fellows appointed through an interdisciplinary unit (e.g., DIBS) are eligible if their main research mentor has a primary appointment in P&N. Students/fellows whose primary appointments are in another department are eligible to apply as part of a research team that includes another student/fellow with primary appointment in P&N. (Note that CNAP students who have not yet declared for P&N are eligible to apply for the research grants if they intend to declare for P&N.)
- Any student with a *completed* Lafitte grant must have filed their final report to be eligible.

B. Review Criteria and Process

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of P&N faculty members. Key criteria for the grants program will include overall scholarly merit, innovativeness, anticipated impact upon undergraduates research experience or general experience at Duke, and feasibility for completion by June 30th 2021. Depending on the number of applications received, priority may be given to applicants who do not hold a current Lafitte grant. Final funding decisions will be made by an ad hoc committee comprising representatives from the leadership of P&N and its graduate program.

C. Reporting Requirements

To provide evidence of our stewardship of this philanthropic gift, we will ask the following of recipients:

- Some recipients will be contacted by Communications Specialist Cara August for brief email or interview testimonials about their project (which will be incorporated into an annual report to be distributed to the donors and Duke leadership).
- Each grantee should also submit a one-page final report after its completion. A box folder will be created where awardees can upload this report as well as photos and other deliverables (e.g., a pdf of a conference poster or publication resulting from the grant).
- All publications resulting from Grant funding should acknowledge the support of the “Charles Lafitte Foundation Program in Psychological Research at Duke University.”

Note that all Grant funds are intended to be expended during the period of support and cannot carry over to future years. So, we encourage people to request the funds they need for their project and to use those funds responsibly during the year of the grant – not reserving any funds for carry-over. Unused funds will need to be returned to the Grant pool at the end of the funding period.

D. Questions/Inquiries

Elizabeth Marsh and Greg Samanez-Larkin will host a zoom meeting on about this Special Call for Research Grants to answer any questions about the call, research topics, and budget items. The meeting will be on Friday June 26th at 3:30 pm and accessible via zoom (**Meeting ID: 990 9724 0443; Password: 478077**). If you are unable to attend, please email questions in advance so that they may be addressed if possible. The call will be recorded and made available upon request. If you have specific questions about the logistics of applying, please contact Staff Assistant Brooke Shaw at brooke.shaw@duke.edu